

requests within each individual request that the school district estimated would take nearly 5,000 hours at enormous cost to the schools and to taxpayers (and again, time and money diverted away from serving children). These requests included demands for all emails, personnel records related to individual teachers, and records that contain personal information, including the home addresses and medical information of numerous teachers and educators in the school system.

Also left unsaid is that Rhode Island's APRA explicitly protects the disclosure of information about "individuals maintained in the files of public bodies when disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." This is an important fact that should not be ignored. One APRA request could have asked for the curriculum, as Solas claimed that she wanted, but that was accompanied with hundreds of other requests: many of which would invade of personal privacy of targeted teachers and other educators in schools. We would urge the Committee to not try to make Solas the "poster adult" for parental engagement. She is not.

Furthermore, Congress should be more discerning with respect to the types of behaviors that it finds acceptable. Supreme Court Justice Warren Berger explains, "Even the most heated political discourse in a democratic society requires consideration for the personal sensibilities of the other participants and audiences. In our Nation's legislative halls, where some of the most vigorous political debates in our society are carried on, there are rules prohibiting the use of expressions offensive to other participants in the debate."

For example, Congress would not allow the behaviors exhibited in footnote 16 to take place as it attempts to conduct its own congressional business. Thus, it is unreasonable to expect school boards and educators to subject themselves to extremely unproductive behavior as cited in footnote 16 when Congress would never tolerate the same. Threats of violence and intimidation are threats to democracy. Instead, Congress should promote discourse and civility.

Again, we strongly support the critical importance that parents have in the upbringing and education of their children. Unfortunately, we believe there is language in H.R. 5 that would prove to be unnecessarily detrimental to the education, health, privacy, and well-being of children. We urge you to go back to the drawing board and work with educational and child and family organizations to improve and rebalance the focus of this legislation, and to remember that children have fundamental rights too.

Rather than a self-centered agenda focused upon parents, the vast majority of parents really want what is best for their children. They do not accept that, as a nation, the U.S. ranks 36th out of 38 wealthy nations on measures of child well-being. They demand that we do better by children. That should be all of our focus.

As such, parents are far more interested and focused on improving education, child health, and reducing child poverty, hunger, and homelessness than book bans, censorship, the whitewashing of history and science, and the excessive filing of numerous records requests for personal and confidential information about school teachers.

Let's work together toward those goals.

Sincerely,

BRUCE LESLEY,  
*President.*

## PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2023*

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights. Our students are the future. They need support, particularly parental support. However, school administrators have decided to undermine this support by keeping parents from getting involved in their own children's education, teaching divisive curriculum, and protecting themselves from accountability.

It is abundantly clear that parents want to be involved. In fact, just the other day in Wisconsin, the School District of Waukesha approved a resolution that established parents' rights and transparency. In this resolution, the school board affirms their commitment to parents, protection for students' religious and moral beliefs from discrimination, and keeping controversial issues out of the classroom.

There is an innate need for parental involvement in education, which is why I strongly support H.R. 5. In fact, my own bill, the CRT Transparency Act, is included in this legislation. This important bill requires schools to post their curriculums online so that parents can see what their students are being taught. Parents across the nation are seeing violations of their rights and their important role replaced. We must pass H.R. 5 to protect parents' right to be heard and put our children first.

## COMMENDING HAKELA HAPNER ON HER WORK FOR ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

**HON. JERRY L. CARL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 24, 2023*

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hakela Hapner for her service to Alabama's First Congressional District.

Hakela received her Bachelor's degree in History and Business Law from the University of Southern California. After graduating, she was hired by the Institute for Justice as a Mafucci Fellow and then as an Activism Assistant. I then hired her in September of 2021 as a Legislative Correspondent, where she managed the mail program and was soon promoted to Military Legislative Assistant.

Hakela handled the National Defense Authorization Act, Veterans Affairs, Science and Space, Homeland Security, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Water Development, Food and Drug Administration, Rural Development, Agriculture Appropriations, and State and Foreign Operations Appropriations. Hakela stepped up and took the lead on my community funding requests and general appropriation requests. She has been a force for Alabama's First District during her time holding these positions.

We are so proud of all the accomplishments she has made, and I cannot wait to see where the next adventure takes her.

## RECOGNIZING TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. CAROL D. MILLER**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 24, 2023*

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, triple negative breast cancer is an aggressive breast cancer and patients with undiagnosed metastatic TNBC have a less than 30 percent chance of surviving past five years. Unlike other breast cancers, TNBC is more difficult to treat. There are limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of TNBC, which has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians. In my home state of West Virginia, the breast cancer mortality rate among women is the 8th highest in the U.S. The prevalence of TNBC in West Virginia is 13 percent, and studies have found links between obesity and TNBC patients in the state. It is imperative to increase the overall wellness of our population, especially for women suffering from a disease as invasive as TNBC. That's why we need more research and access to care in West Virginia to catch this disease early. We need to work together not just this month, but every month, to maintain momentum to improve early diagnosis, treatment planning, cancer typing, and research to help all those affected by TNBC.

## HONORING THE SPIRITED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF DEBBIE KIEVITS

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 24, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Connecticut hero, Ms. Debbie Kievits of Norwich. As the founder of Norwich Bully Busters, Debbie has been relentless in her leadership behind a local anti-bullying campaign for more than two decades. Debbie will be honored this weekend in Norwich following her recognition in USA Today as Connecticut's 2023 Woman of the Year.

Debbie Kievits has long stood firm in her faith of youth empowerment. In 2000, following a string of unfortunate bullying incidents that also impacted her own family, Debbie envisioned an opportunity to improve her community. She took charge and began to engage with fellow parents. In doing so, Debbie came to understand that reducing bullying amongst youth is a constant battle that requires town-wide buy-in. She obviously continues to courageously pursue this fight today.

Following the incidents in 2000, Debbie felt inspired to implement her own vision after engaging with parents and groups like Youth Against Bullying. She created Norwich Bully Busters, a volunteer-based organization missioned toward sharing a simple message: "Kindness is magical."

At the time this group might have been viewed as benign but peripheral to school development. In 2023, we now understand how the problems Debbie identified are the central challenge to public education today, mainly fostering safe and healthy learning environments. The push to strengthen the behavioral